

USE OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

A. Corporal Punishment

Consistent with state law and Board policy, corporal punishment shall not be administered to students by anyone in any district school.

B. Physical Intervention Other than Restraint

Persons employed by the district may use reasonable and appropriate physical intervention or force in the scope of their employment as necessary for the following purposes:

1. To prevent a student from an act of wrong-doing.
2. To quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others.
3. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon a student or within the control of a student.
4. For the purpose of self-defense.
5. For the protection of persons or property.
6. To maintain discipline.

Under no circumstances shall a student be physically held for more than five minutes unless the provisions regarding restraint below are followed.

C. Restraint

1. Definitions

Restraint is defined under state law and this policy as any method or device used to involuntarily limit freedom of movement, including but not limited to bodily physical force, mechanical devices, chemical restraint, physical restraint and seclusion. **These regulations refer to the use of physical restraint only.**

Restraint does not include:

- a. the use of protective or adaptive devices for providing physical support, prevention of injury or voluntary or life-saving medical procedures,
- b. the holding of a student for less than five minutes by a staff person for protection of the student or other persons,
- c. the use of time-out.

Time-out is the placement of a student alone in a room or in a specified area of a room for the purpose of allowing the student to think about inappropriate behavior prior to rejoining class or other school-related activity. Egress from time-out rooms or areas shall not be involuntarily prevented.

2. Basis for Use of Restraint

Staff may use restraint only in cases of emergency when other less restrictive alternatives have failed or the staff member determines that such alternatives would be inappropriate or ineffective under the circumstances.

An emergency is a serious, probable, imminent threat of bodily harm to self or others where

there is the present ability to effect such bodily harm.

The purpose for using restraint shall be to prevent the continuation or renewal of the emergency. Restraint shall only be used for the period of time necessary to accomplish its purpose. In no event shall physical force be used beyond that which is necessary to limit the student's freedom of movement.

3. Duties Relating to the Use of Restraint

No physical restraint of a student shall place excess pressure on the student's chest or back or inhibit or impede the student's ability to breathe. A staff member shall observe the student at regular intervals to check on breathing ability.

A student in physical restraint shall be released from such restraint within fifteen minutes after the initiation of physical restraint, except when precluded for safety reasons.

4. Staff Training

Staff shall receive annual in-service training on the appropriate use of restraint. The training shall include the requirement that staff explain, where possible, the use of restraint to the individual who is to be restrained and to the individual's family if appropriate.

5. Documentation and Review

As soon after as is practicable, staff shall make an appropriate notation of the use of restraint in the student's record and notify the building principal of the use of restraint. The principal shall review the use of restraint to determine whether it was in compliance with state law, Board policy, and this regulation.

ADOPTED: March 18, 2008